Start of George T. Weidinger Collection

AR 11708

Sys #: 000356759

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE
Center for Jewish History
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011

Phone: (212) 744-6400
Fax: (212) 988-1305
Email: lbaeck@lbi.cjh.org
URL: http://www.lbi.org

AR 11708 1/1 George T. Weninger Collection, 1875-

George Thomas Weidinger Collection (AHC 2609)

(all items below are copies if not otherwise indicated)

1. AHC QII

2. ' Hietzing 1929-1939' an explanation of the following photographs by GW

3. 1st sheet contains photographies of the appartment Auhofstrasse, and of the house across the appartment which became SS headquater in 1938

4. 2nd sheet contains photographies of the GW elementary school and 'Realschule', a church in Hietzing, a bicycle Identification card etc..

5. 3rd sheet contains photographies of family members, friends, a letter etc…

6. 4th sheet contains photographies of Schoenbrunn, family members, a comentary of his mother to place Gwin a foreign country, etc..

7. 5th sheet contains photographiesof Identification papers of GW

8. 6th sheet contains contains family photos and some photographies of Hietzing

9. 7th sheet contains a photography of a ' Halbjahrsausweis', the last report card from GW's 'Realschule' in 1938

10. Sheet of photographies of Elizabeth Szandicz Weidinger's former Valentin, Grave the Graveyard etc…

11. Sheet with photographies of the 'Baja Cemetary'

12. Sheet with photographies of the 'Baja Cemetary'

THE AUSTRIAN HERITAGE COLLECTION AT THE LEO BAECK INSTITUTE

AUSTRIAN-JEWISH IMMIGRANTS IN THE USA

LEO BAECK INSTITUTE: 15 WEST 16TH STREET, 4TH FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10011, TEL (212) 744 - 6400

We kindly ask you to answer the following questions in as much detail as possible, either in English or in German. If you need more space, please feel free to use additional sheets. If you don't know the answer to certain questions or don't want to answer for any reason, just go on to the next question.

NAME: GEORGE T. WEDINGER **DATE:** 3/1/03

1. BEFORE MARCH 1938

1.1 Please describe your parental home.
(Did you live in an apartment or in a house? How many people lived there with you? Did you have servants? What language(s) were spoken in the household?)

WE LIVED IN AN APARTMENT AT ANHOFSTRASSE 11 b IN HIETZING. MY FATHER ERNST, MOTHER LIESL, BROTHER PETER, A LIVE IN COOK POLDI SEFCIKOVA AND I WE ONLY SPOKE GERMAN

1.2 Please tell us about your neighborhood (District in Vienna or area).
(What ethnic groups lived there? Religious life? Relationships between Jews and non-Jews? Relationships with neighbors?)

MR. BERNARD GRUNDLER WHO OWNED A AUTO & BICYCLE PARTS STORE IN A KIOSK IN HIETZING & LEASED THE GARAGE IN OUR APARTMENT BUILDING HIRED ME WHEN I COULD NO LONGER GO TO SCHOOL TO TEACH ME TO BECOME AN AUTO MECHANIC.
HANS HOLZER & FAMILY LIVED UPSTAIRS.

1.3 What religious tradition existed in your family?
(Did you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe holidays, etc.?)

I WAS BORN & BAPTIZED IN THE DOROTHEER GASSE SWISS CONFESSION, CALVIN. I WAS TOLD AFTER THE ANSCHLUSS THAT I WAS JEWISH

1.4 Please, tell us about your friends and acquaintances ?
(Were they mostly Jewish or non-Jewish? Did you have any close non-Jewish friends?)

I DONT REMBER HAVING HAD FRIENDS BUT MY PARENTS HAD JEWISH FRIENDS

1.5 Were you affiliated with any political, social or religious organization?
(Youth Organizations, Zionist Organizations, Political Parties, other organizations)
If so, did you have any specific function?

NO

1.6 Did you or your family encounter any anti-Semitism in Austria before March 1938?
(If so, please give details.)

NO

1.7 What was your/ your family's reaction to Hitler's rise to power in Germany in 1933 and to Nazi activity in Austria in the early thirties? Did you/ they feel threatened by these events?

IT WAS NOT DICUSSED

2. FROM MARCH 1938 TO EMIGRATION - FROM EUROPE TO AMERICA

2.1 How was your time spent during and after the "Anschluss"? What was the impact of the "Anschluss" on you personally?
(Were you expelled from school/university? Did you or somebody in your family lose your/ their jobs? Were your apartments/houses looted? Were you (or members of your family) persecuted? Were you/ they forced to scrub the streets?)

EXPELLED FROM SCHOOL
WORKED FOR MR. GRUNDLER.

2.2 How did non-Jewish friends, colleagues, schoolmates, neighbors, etc. behave toward you and your family?

NOTHING BAD THAT I CAN REMEMBER

2.3 Could you please decribe your recollections of November 9th, 1938, the so-called „Reichs-Kristallnacht" (in case you still were in Austria at that time)

I WAS VERY SCARED. SOME OF MY PARENTS FRIENDS WHO LIVED IN CENTER OF WIEN WERE HARASSED

2.4 Were you or any members of your family arrested? Sent to a camp?
(If so, please give details.)

NO

2.5 Can you recall the process of obtaining papers necessary for emigration?
(Did you try to obtain visas for other countries as well? Were you supported by any relief organization, by relatives or friends?)

MY PARENTS APPLIED FOR AMERICAN VISA. WE RECEIVED VISA IN AUGUST 39 EXCEPT MY FATHER WHO WAS ON THE JUGOSLAV QUOTA. HE WENT TO BUDAPEST TO WAIT FOR VISA

2.6 What happened to your (or your family's) apartments, houses, businesses and other property?

I BELIEVE MY FATHER SOLD THE APARTMENT (?)

2.7 When did you leave Austria? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

AUGUST 21, 1939

2.8 If you did not emigrate directly to the U.S, where did you go first?
(How long did you stay there? Can you give a brief description of your experiences? Was there an immedate reason - apart from the general threat - for your emigration?)

WE WENT TO TRIEST THE DAY BEFORE THE SHIP WAS TO SAIL. WHEN WE WENT TO DOCK THE SHIP WAS BEING TOWED AWAY. WE WERE STRANDED AND A JEWISH ORGANIZATION PUT US UP IN A DORMITORY AND GAVE US BREAD & MILK

3. THE UNITED STATES

3.1 When did you arrive in the U.S.? (Please indicate exact date, if possible)

OCTOBER 12, 1939

3.2 Did members of your family emigrate to countries other than the U.S.?
(If so, where? Where do they live today? Are you still in contact with them?)

NO

3.3 Did you serve in the U.S. Armed Forces or in any other allied army?
(If so, when did you join? What division? What was your area of operation?
When were you discharged?)

YES. I WAS IN CAMP STEWART IN THE 795th AAA BATALLION. NOV 1944 I WAS TRANSFERRED TO FT. HUNT, VA, I SERVED IN G-2 MILITARY INTELLIGENCE POW INTERROGATION DISCHARGED AUG 1, 1945

3.4 Please list places and dates of residence in the U.S.
(City, State; in bigger cities, neighborhood)

CLEVELAND, OHIO

3.5 Please describe your occupational situation after your arrival in the U.S.

WORKED IN LAMP FACTORY ON ASSEMBLY LINE
APPRENTICE IN MACHINE SHOP, ARMY, INDUSTRIAL
ENGINEER, PRODUCTION CONTROL MGR, SUB CONTRACT
MGR. MANAGED JOB SHOP FOR 1 YEAR. SR BUYER
IN AEROSPACE CO. MATERIALS MGR. MANUFACTURER
REP. SOLD TITANIUM TOOLS, NOW RETIRED.

3.6 Did you belong to any emigrant/immigrant-related organization or cultural association? (e.g. Austrian American Federation, Austrian Forum, etc.? If so, since when?)

NO

3.7 Do you still speak German in the USA? If so, with whom and when? How often?

NO

3.8 Would you call yourself religious? To what degree? What is your affiliation? Did it change?
(Do you keep kosher, go to synagogue, observe the holidays,...?)

NO
I CONVERTED TO CATHOLIC RELIGION AS MY WIFE WAS BORN IN THAT RELIGION & MY 3 CHILDREN WERE RAISED IN THAT RELIGION

3.9 Were your friends and acquaintances mostly German-speaking or non-German-speaking? Mainly Jewish or not?

I JOINED THE JCC 12 YEARS AGO AND HAVE MANY JEWISH FRIENDS

3.10 Of what country (countries) are you a citizen? When was each citizenship granted?

USA
NOV 1942

3.11 Have you ever visited Austria after the war? If so, how often?
(What did you do there? Can you recall some of your impressions during these visits? Have you ever thought of going back permanently?)

I VISIT VIENNA EVERY YEAR SINCE 1973 (11 TIMES) AND TAKE OUR FRIENDS TO HOTEL SACHER FOR DINNER & ALSO TO THE HEURIGEN VISIT GRAVE OF GRANDPARENTS IN MOEDLING

4. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER ORAL HISTORY PROJECTS

4.1 Have you ever been interviewed by any other organization?
(If yes, please indicate when and by which organization?)

YES.
DR. ROBERT STEIBEL IN WIEN

4.2 Have you ever been mentioned in any historical works?
(Holocaust-related literature, Documentary films, Exhibitions etc.)

NO

5. FAMILY MEMBERS

5.1 **Spouse** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

NINA TERTA 12/2/20 CLEVELAND

5.2 **Mother** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

ELIZABETH SZANDICZ
9/16/1894 VIENNA

5.3 **Father** (Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

ERNST WEIDINGER
ZOMBOR, HUNGARY

CHILDREN

5.4 ~~**Siblings**~~ (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

ELIZABETH 2/21/50
DENISE 5/5/52
LORI 6/4/54

SIBLINGS

5.5 ~~**Children**~~ (Name, Maiden Name, Address [City, State, Country], Place/date of birth [if deceased, place/date of death], Occupation[s])

PETER WEIDINGER
APRIL 30, 1919

5.6 **Grandparents** (Name, Maiden Name, Place/date of birth, place/date of death, Occupation[s])

LAURA SZANDICZ (VALENTINO)
KOLOMAN SZANDICZ
BURIED (MOEDLING)
ETHER WEIDINGER (DEUTSCH)
HERMAN WEIDINGER
BURIED (BAJA, HUNGARY)

The Austrian Heritage Collection is always looking for people to interview.

If you know any Austrian-Jewish immigrants in the US who might be interested in participating in this project, please either ask them to contact us or write their addresses below.

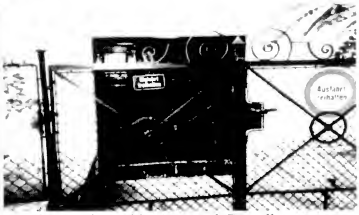
Thank you very much for participating in this project.

Hietzing 1929 - 1939

1. Apartment at Auhofstrasse 11b. Garage was leased by Ing. Bernhard Grundler who hired me in 1938 at no pay and train me to become an Auto Mechanic. I started work at 5 in the morning, by crawling through the window, and washing 4 to 5 Automobiles. I then went to the Kiosk and opened the store by rolling up the steel curtains covering the windows.
   The house across from the apartment was a large house owned by a Jew. The SS confiscated the house, opened all the windows and threw out the antique furniture. There also was a 1935 Buick Sedan that was used by the SS Standatenfuehrer, driven by a chauffeur. The apartment was pur chased by a Doctor who converted it into a clinic where various treatments are provided.
2. View of the apartment (first floor) from the Hietzinger Hauptstrasse.
   An old etching I found on eBay of the Church am Hietzinger Platz. An inside view of the Church located am Platz.
   Elementary School that I attended from 1929 to 1933, August Stahl was my Teacher.
   Goethe Realschule that I attended for 5 years until March 1938.
3. Mr. Bernard Grundler who was kind enough to hire me and train me to become an Auto Me chanic. The Auto and Bicycle Parts store located in a Kiosk no longer exists.
   Hanz Ruehmann was a friend of Ing. Grundler and he drove a black MG car the I had to wipe dry every time it rained. A letter that I sent to Ing. Grundler in 1939 after I was no longer able to work for him.
4. The Weidinger Family
5. Various identification cards. The one the Germans issued declaring me Jewish. A school identifi cation card while I attended the Goethe Realschule. Cards issued by the American Embassy at the time the American Visa was issued.
6. Ice parlor Della Lucia where we ate ice. Hotel Huebner where my mother arranged Bridge Games for steady customers every afternoon. My Father spent much time there as well,
   Erie Herbert (later married to Guenther Burdszig) and her sister Hinnie and their Father Ferrie. He was a very good friend of my parents, they also lived in Hietzing.
   Wilhelmina Altrichter was the daughter of Poldi's sister. Poldi was a live-in cook who actually raised me and took me to the Catholic Church am Hietzinger Platz many times. Her sister sold coal in Speising.
7. My last report card from the Goether Realschule.

Apartment Auhofstrasse 11b

Entrance to Apartment



Garage leased by Bernard Grundler

Window I used to enter Garage

Apartment today

House on Hietzinger Hauptstrasse across from our apartment
It became SS Headquarters in 1938

Hietzinger Hauptstrasse

Old etching of Hietzing

Church at Hietzinger Platz

Elementary School

George Weidinger at School

Same classroom years later

Ausweiskarte

Bicycle Identification Card

Goethe Realschule

Bernard Grundler Lilly, Brigitte, Ingrid

Auto and Bicycle Parts Store in Kiosk (no longer there)

ING. BERNH. GRUNDLER-KLAUHSECKER

Wien XIII. 89. Auhofstraße 11B - Tel. A 50-7-82

Kraftfahrzeuge / Ersatzteile / Zugehör

ÖLE . FETTE

Untersuchung von Kraftfahrzeugen Kraft u. Schmierstoffen - Materialprüfung - Versuchs- und Meßwesen Betreuung - Beratung - Konstruktion

WERKSVERTRETUNGEN

13-8-51

Heinz Ruehmann, friend of Mr. Grundler

Lieber Herr Ingenieur!

Da ich nicht aus dem Haus darf und schon gar nicht ins Geschäft kommen darf, muss ich Sie ein paar Sachen die mir am Herzen liegen schriftlich fragen.

Ich bitte Sie wegen der 3 RM den Joly zu erinnern, und gleichzeitig ihm sagen, dass ich nicht mehr waschen kann.

Ich habe meinen Rucksack, meine Aktentasche, den Riemen dazu, das Taschenmesser, die Pistole, vergessen.

dann wegen des Schraubstockes (ich weiss nicht ob Sie ihn brauchen können)

Dann habe ich Gunter 2 mal gewaschen.

Bitte geben Sie die Sachen meiner Köchin.

Lieber Herr Ingenieur nun bitte ich Sie mir für meine Arbeiten ein Zeugnis zu schreiben welches Ihen bestimmt nicht schwer fallen wird und mir in Amerika einmal helfen kann.

Wenn Sie die Bitte erfullen dann schreiben Sie es auf Geschäftspapier mit Stampilie.

Ich bin so unglücklich, dass ich nicht mher bei Ihnen arbeiten kann. Sie werden es nicht verstehen aber ich habe mich schon an Sie und an das Geschäft gewöhnt gehabt. Ich dachte mir nicht, dass der Abschied so schwer sein kann.

wenn es Ihnen nichts macht, so werde ich Sie Sonntag in einer Woche in der Wohnung aufsuchen.

Bitte sagen Sie meiner Köchin Post wegen allen Fragen und letzteres insbesondere.

Herzliche Grüsse und Handkusse
an Ihre Frau

von Ihrem

Letter written by Georg to Mr. Grundler
February 15, 1939

Schoenbrunn 1936

Georg, Ernst, Peter

Ernst, Liesl Weidinger

Peter, Ernst Liesl

Ernst

Georg

Ernst, Georg, Peter at U-Bahn

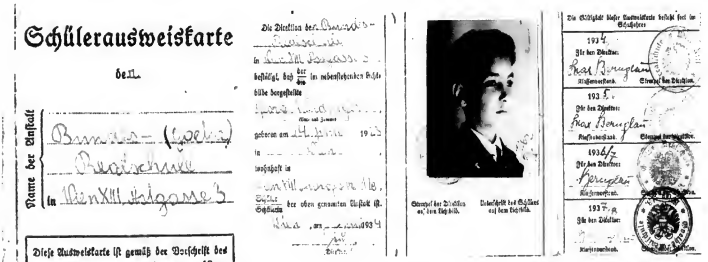
Georg, Peter

Look how tall Peter is!

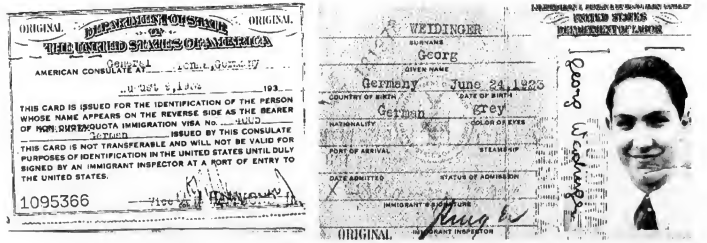
Mothers handwriting Georg Weidinger, Wien XIII Auhofstrasse 11B Geb. 24. Juni 1923, evang. 4 Volksschulklassen, 4 1/2 Realschulklassen franzoesisch, etwas englisch, besonderes Talent zu handfertigkeit. Absolut gesund, sportlich ganz ausgebildet.

Mother's comentary to place Georg somewhere in a foreign country

Identification Card issued by the Germans



School Identification Card



Identification Card issued by the American Embassy in Wien August 9, 1939

Ice Parlor Della Lucia

Hotel Huebner (Now Hotel Schoenbrunn)

Erie and Hinnie Herbert

Ferrie Herbert

Wilhelmine Altrichter and Aunt Leopoldine (Poldi) Sefcikova

Goethe-Realschule in Wien, XIII., Astgasse 3.

Katalog-Nr. 36 Schuljahr 1937/38

Halbjahrsausweis

für Weidinger Georg

Schüler — der fünften Klasse der achtklassigen Realschule

Betragen gut

40 Groschen

Verbindliche Lehrgegenstände	Leistungen
Religion	genügend
Deutsche Sprache	gut
Französisch — ~~Englisch~~ — ~~Italienisch~~	genügend
Englisch — ~~Französisch~~ — ~~Italienisch~~	nicht genügend
Geschichte	genügend
Geographie	genügend
Naturgeschichte	nicht genügend
Chemie	
Physik	
Mathematik	nicht genügend
Darstellende Geometrie	genügend
Philosophischer Einführungsunterricht	
Zeichnen	genügend
Körperliche Übungen	gut

Wien, am 11. Februar 1938

Direktor

Klassenvorstand

[illegible] anderen Lehranstalt ist nichts einzuwenden

Wien, am 23. März 1938.

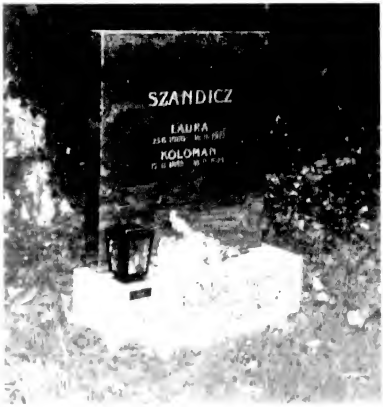
Direktor

Notenreihe

Betragen	sehr gut	gut	entsprechend	nicht entsprechend
Fortgang	sehr gut	gut	genügend	nicht genügend

Last Report Card from Goethe Realschule, 1938

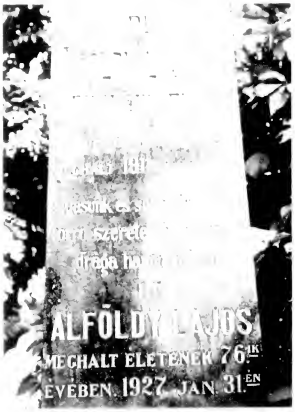
Laura Szandicz geb. Valentin



Grave of Laura and Koloman Szandicz in Moedling
Laura commited suicide

Herman Weidinger born 1848, died 11 March 1908
In Hebrew: Zvi Hirsh Weidinger Son of Piglah, died Adar Shani 5668

Mrs. Herman Weidinger, died June 23, 1940.
In Hebrew: Ester, daughter of Sarah, died Sivan 17th 5700



Dr. Lajos Alfoeldy, died January 31, 1927, In Hebrew: Eliezer son of Sarah, died Shavat 5687
Mrs. Lajos Alfoeldy, born Flora Weidinger, born July 12, 1857, died January 11, 1922,
In Hebrew: Finkel daughter of Sarah, died Tevet 5671

Josef Weidinger, died May 13, 1889 in his 77th year, In Hebrew: a longer prayer/appreciation
of the person, died 12 Iyar 5649

Baja Cemetery

End of George T. Weidinger Collection